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7 FEATURE  
CONSTRUCTIVE  
SUMMER

Grassroots giving in a time of need  
By Emily Cassel

- 4 NEWS  
SHORTLIST  
The U of M has an official back-to-school plan, complete with dorm curfews  
BLOTTER  
Seized cars bring in cash for police departments, even when an owner is innocent
- 14 DISH  
SPYHOUSE  
SET TO UNIONIZE  
Unite Here Local 17 is on something of a roll

cover credit  
Photo by  
Emily Utne

- 15 A-LIST  
THE STRANGE BEAUTY OF INTERSECTIONS  
Minneapolis and St. Paul's most confusing spots to navigate look a lot better on these maps
- 16 MUSIC  
READING MUSIC  
New books that will teach even hardcore fans something new
- 17 FREE WILL  
ASTROLOGY  
CROSSWORD
- 18 CLASSIFIEDS  
SAVAGE LOVE

Editorial

EDITOR Emily Cassel  
WEB EDITOR Jay Boller  
NEWS EDITOR Mike Mullen  
MUSIC EDITOR Keith Harris  
FOOD EDITOR Sarah Brumble  
ARTS EDITOR Jessica Armbruster  
STAFF WRITERS Susan Du, Hannah Jones  
COPY EDITOR Bridgette Reinsmoen  
PROOFREADER Bryan Miller  
CLUBS EDITOR Erik Thompson

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Jerard Fagerberg, Jay Gabler, Tony Libera, Michael Madden, Erica Rivera, Sheila Regan

Art

ART DIRECTOR Emily Utne  
LAYOUT EDITOR Shelby Lano

Production

DESIGN MANAGER Maria Grzywa

Publisher

Mary Erickson

Advertising

SALES DIRECTOR Leah Parkinson

SENIOR ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES

Leah Carson, Kevin Lenhart, Brian Thunberg

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES

Frankie Ellingson, Ashley Farlow, Luke Gildemeister, Marie Iannazzo, Jacob Johnston

SENIOR MULTIMEDIA ACCOUNT

EXECUTIVE Mike Yanke

ACCOUNT MANAGERS

Carly Dabroski, Arianna Eady, Danielle Smith

CP Digital

SOCIAL MEDIA MANAGER Kelly Java

SOCIAL MEDIA COORDINATOR

Alison King

Marketing and Promotions

MARKETING DIRECTOR Holly Hunt

MARKETING COORDINATOR

Emma Engeldinger

Business and Administration

FINANCE MANAGER

Bernadette Botoshe

STAFF ACCOUNTANT Du Nguyen Ho

City Pages

650 3rd Avenue South, Suite 1300,  
Minneapolis, MN 55488

PHONE 612.375.1015 FAX 612.372.3737

E-MAIL [adinfo@citypages.com](mailto:adinfo@citypages.com)

CITY PAGES ONLINE [www.citypages.com](http://www.citypages.com)

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## THE SHORTLIST

North Minneapolis families rally for peace in a violent year  
 at citypages.com



SUSAN DU

## THE STAT SHEET

**1**

COVID-19 death recorded in Minnesota Monday—the lowest figure since April 13

**600**

Single-family building permits issued last month, a 15% decline from last year

**26**

People charged in last week's downtown looting so far

**30%**

Portion of Best Buy's 1,000 new hires who will be women or people of color

"As a cancer patient, I would be willing to dispose of that in an environmentally friendly way."

Reader Steve Kershner responds to "Hennepin County weed bust brag gets laughed at online" at citypages.com.

## BACK TO SCHOOL

**AFTER WEEKS** of "will they/won't they," University of Minnesota officials announced this week that students are heading back to campus. In the Twin Cities, dorm move-in starts September 15; in-person classes are set to resume shortly after, with two weeks of online instruction to start off the semester. The four-step safety plan, as outlined in a statement from the U, seems "fine"—though it relies a lot on adherence to a series of curfews. We're sure new-to-campus college students, notorious for loving rules and abiding by them wholly, will do juuuust fine with it.

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# CARS 4 COPS

Minnesota police make bank selling seized vehicles, even if the owner's innocent

**B**ack in 2015, Megan Olson got arrested by the Shakopee Police Department for driving while impaired.

Olson had three previous DWI convictions under her belt. That meant she could be charged with a first-degree count this time.

Getting slapped with a first-degree DWI meant the vehicle Olson was driving, a 1999 Lexus, was subject to forfeiture. Hers is one of a few offenses designated by state statute that allow the cops to seize property upon arrest.

If that seizure is not contested in court within the allotted time, the police can keep the property, and they can sell it.

It's a measure intended to keep offenders from reoffending, but critics say it also punishes people who happen to be in the wrong place at the wrong time—like sitting in the passenger seat, letting a friend they thought was sober drive instead of them.

Or, in Olson's case, it seems to have

unduly punished her mother, Helen, the actual owner of the Lexus. Helen couldn't contest the seizure until her daughter's criminal case was adjudicated. By the time Megan pleaded guilty to a first-degree DWI and the Olsons got a hearing on the car, 18 months had passed, according to court documents.

They took their case to court, arguing that their right to due process had been violated, and managed to get the Lexus back. But their case also brought up questions about the statute's constitutionality, which made their way before the Minnesota Supreme Court last year.

The state high court found that the law was not, on its face, unconstitutional, though the way police were executing it might be. According to court documents, Minnesota law "provides no assessment whatsoever" that the state actually has the authority to seize a purportedly innocent owner's car.

Legislators have tried rewriting this

law, one police have a real financial interest in protecting. A recent investigation by KSTP found that police departments across the state have taken close to 14,000 vehicles and made nearly \$10 million off selling them in the past three years alone. About three out of four vehicles seized between 2016 and 2018 were related to drunk driving offenses.

In 2017, Minnesota House Rep. John Lesch (D-St. Paul) testified about his struggle, as an attorney, to help his client get an impounded Chevy back from authorities. Her ex-boyfriend had been the one driving it. Lesch called the whole process "insane."

"I could not believe we created a system like that," he said in a statement.

He's repeatedly authored bills trying to change it, but hasn't made any headway. He told KSTP opposition from the Minnesota Chiefs of Police Association is partly responsible for killing this year's bill.

"When you're taking vehicles from inno-

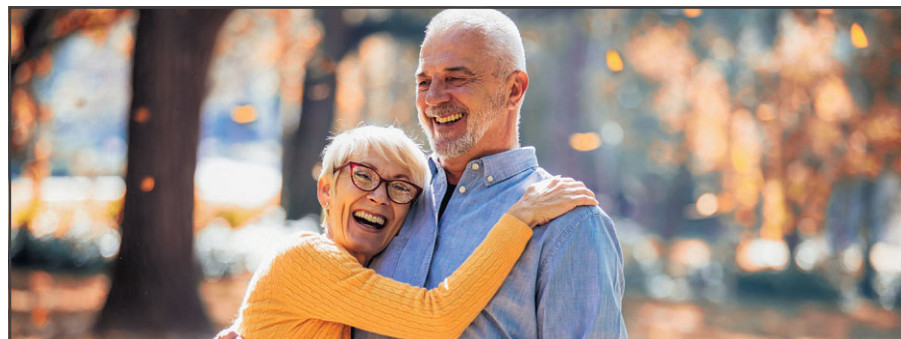


ELIZABETH FLORES, STAR TRIBUNE

cent owners... you're not making anyone safer, you're just lining your pockets," Lesch said. "It's not the right way to fund law enforcement... even law enforcement knows that."

From 2017 to 2019, the Minnesota State Patrol spent the majority of its forfeiture money on salaries (\$686,000), rent (\$493,000), and towing fees (\$475,000).

—HANNAH JONES



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EMILY UTNE

# Constructive Summer

GRASSROOTS GIVING IN A TIME OF NEED

BY EMILY CASSEL

**T**hroughout late May and early June, Target stores across the metro bustled with people piling carts full of toilet paper and canned goods and flour and oil—not to hoard, as in the pandemic panic that seized the nation in early March, but to share, in response to the community need that became suddenly stark after the murder of George Floyd.

In the unrest that followed Floyd's death, Minneapolis and St. Paul sprung into action. There were food drives, clothing drives, diaper drives. GoFundMe pages went live in the morning and raised \$10,000 or more by afternoon.

"The self-perception of Minnesotans being very giving in times of crisis is a real thing," the team behind the Twin Cities Mutual Aid Map tells City Pages. They made the map ([twin-cities-mutual-aid.org](http://twin-cities-mutual-aid.org)) to connect those well-intentioned shoppers with donation sites and volunteer locations, and during the early days of upheaval, organizers saw roughly 1,100 hits per hour.

The thing is, "Interest dwindles when the need is not perceived as sufficiently dire." And nearly three months after the cities first burned, interest has undoubtedly dwindled. Donations, both material and financial, have seen a dramatic decrease. The TC Map site has gotten sleeker and more organized, but it gets a fraction of the visits it once did.

"Need has not diminished or vanished, but public perception is that the crisis has passed," its creators say, a refrain echoed by nearly every organizer we spoke to for this story. "It hasn't."

At the same time, there have never been more ways to meet that need. Plenty of people have been doing this work since long before Minneapolis's summer 2020 awakening, and plenty of the people who quickly organized when they saw a neighborhood in crisis are still out there—transforming a south Minneapolis bike shop into a free store or driving a school bus full of supplies into sanctuary parks or providing laundry service to those who might not have access to it.

We have a lot of rebuilding to do yet. Here are a few places you can start.

## People's Protection Coalition

@peoplesprotectioncoalition

**There's an Angela Davis** quote scrawled in script across the back of the People's Protection Coalition bus: "You have to act as if it were possible to radically transform the world. And you have to do it all the time."

The coalition's core members—Riza, Connor, Ndolo, Kira, Makena, Rachel, and Rose—spent the summer acting on Davis's vision. The original plan for their Facebook Marketplace score was to be a mobile medic unit, but when the protests died down they reassessed their role and realized the bus also makes it very easy to distribute donations. They can pull right





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The People's Laundry

up to encampments in Minneapolis parks (or anywhere), then pop open the back doors and get people what they need. So that's what the BIPOC-led group has been doing, delivering food and medical kits and hygiene supplies and camping gear wherever they're needed.

"Mutual aid—we view it as a political statement," Ndolo says. "It's using each other and the resources we have to spread those resources to other people. It's not charity; it's more sustainable, because it relies on the idea that we are all connected with each other and we all depend on each other for success."

"A lot of us are low income. Most of us," Makena adds. "We already understand what it's like to need, and to have to build your own systems because you're trying to get by. You have to rely on each other."

People's Protection Coalition was the force behind two big food drives this summer: a "Fuck the Fourth, Feed the People" drive at Matthews Park in July and another in August called "Community > Capitalism." But as donations have slowed and interest decreased (yes, even interest in a school bus covered with hand-painted butterflies), they're reassessing their role again.

"We want to be able to expand in tangible ways and meet the needs of the community as they shift," Rachel says. They predict one of the city's next great challenges will be distance learning, and are looking for ways to provide books and laptops and other school supplies for young people who might not have the right academic resources at home. They're working on a Patreon page that would give them a better and more consistent idea about the money coming in and what they can do with it. And they plan to continue providing for the encampments: "Because obviously the government's not doing it."

"Nobody's checking for people," Kira says. "We're a small group of people with a school bus, and we're out here distributing supplies because the government's not doing that."

"We're trying to build new systems. When you talk about tearing down systems of oppression, we can reject those by not participating in them," Makena says. "We are trying to make People's Protection Coalition a system."

### The People's Laundry + The People's Closet

thepeopleslaundrympls.com  
@thepeopleslaundrympls

**You know those** subscription-box fashion services Instagram ads are always trying to get you to sign up for? Where you pay a monthly fee, supply your sizes and style, and someone shops for you? And then it's all delivered to your door?

"It's like that, but free!" says Deanna, throwing open their garage door to reveal what might be Minneapolis's largest detached walk-in closet.

People's Laundry started in early June as a service for neighbors in need. The free laundry took off as Minneapolis's sanctuary parks swelled with tents; volunteers shuttled bags to and from Powderhorn's sanctuary and eventually to several other encampments.

They can't even begin to estimate the number of people they've provided laundry services for: They were washing 40 bags twice a week at Powderhorn alone. That's *bags*, not loads—one might have two or more in it. These days, between a core of about eight consistent organizers and 300 or so volunteers who help in capacities from doing laundry to sorting the space, the People's Laundry serves about 16 parks (and the Greenway), laun-



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EMILY CASSEL

Tomme Beevas  
of Pimento

dering anywhere from 3 to 15 bags a week depending on the size.

Clearly, this was an unmet need. But in the course of doing the People's Laundry, the group encountered a lot of people who didn't have any clothes to launder. A few weeks in, they wondered if maybe they should start collecting clothes, too, and the People's Closet was born.

Getting clothing is as simple as filling out a form. There are printed flyers and an online version anyone can access, asking what kind of wear you're looking for. Need masc tank tops, size medium? Femme leggings in a large? Shoes? Socks? Just check the corresponding boxes and hand the slip back to a volunteer; they'll note your location and return after collecting clothing for you.

"This doesn't even have to be for the houseless population," Deanna says. "It can be for anybody who can't afford clothes." And though they've thought about trying to start a nonprofit, this grassroots, on-the-ground organizing has worked well so far.

"All these places that I've never heard of, they're like, 'Hey, this week our organization we're donating to is the People's Laundry!'" Deanna says. "It's really cool."

## Pimento Relief Services

pimentokitchen.com

facebook.com/pimentorelief

**Twin Cities restaurants** have done some interesting pop-ups lately, but none was so unexpected as Pimento Jamaican Kitchen's Eat Street pivot. "No jerk chicken or rum punch today," a June 1 Facebook post announced, "but come get your milk and diapers!"

"The Pimento space has a different meaning to me today than it did a summer ago," co-owner Tomme Beevas says, sitting in the patio-turned-donation-hub in August. "Where we're sitting right now we wouldn't be able to walk a few months ago. We had so much product on the ground, built up to the roof."

It was a sudden shift for Pimento, but Beevas says the restaurant felt more to him like Kingston than ever before, reminiscent of the city's tarpaulin-covered markets overflowing with produce and colorful clothing. "That's what Pimento looked like. It had a nostalgic moment, and yet it was in the middle of an uprising that was so powerful."

Beevas remembers watching the video of George Floyd—he'd tried hard not to, but it felt necessary. He locked himself in his garage and bawled. Then he tapped into his decades of corporate responsibility and community development (Pimento was already providing free meals to school kids, healthcare workers, and homeless populations as part of its COVID-19 aid) and got to work.

During the uprising, volunteers stationed at Pimento ended up air-traffic-controlling a citywide disaster relief effort. They blocked off a lane of Nicollet, where a flood of SUVs and pickups packed with donations stretched down the block. A human chain passed food and diapers back from the curb, where they piled the patio so high Beevas had to stand on the stage to find people he was looking for. Drivers shuttled the overflowing supplies to other aid centers in the Twin Cities.

The groundswell of support reaffirmed what Beevas already knew: "We all had the ability to take care of each other. We all had the ability to protect our own blocks. We all have what we need already—we just have to not allow our human limitations to stand in the way of and limit others." Which is why the restaurant now has an established mutual aid arm.

On Marcus Garvey's birthday, August 17, they formally registered Pimento Relief Services as a B-Corporation, one that exists "to reimagine the instruments of our liberation. That means economic, social, and political liberation; Beevas talks about everything from feeding the community, to protecting the integrity of the ballot, to promoting healing and growth





EMILY CASSEL

Auto Outreach Mpls

as the city rebuilds from this upheaval and faces new ones. What would it mean to reimagine the nonprofit industrial complex, and to instead connect with actual people in need?

"We don't have to be the best speech givers," Beevas says. "We don't have to be the best food shelf. But we've gotta find those who are doing the work—how do we support them with the resources they need, and that their counterparts don't have, to set them up for the best success?"

Those are the questions Pimento Relief Services SBC will continue to ask—though these days, they can ask them *and* make you a mean jerk chicken and rum punch.

### Auto Outreach Mpls

@autooutreachmpls

"**Reliable transportation** is safety and agency, and everyone should be entitled to it," Jon Cass says.

In a parking lot not far from the Stone Arch Bridge, the Auto Outreach MPLS founder soon crawls beneath a blue SUV, attracting glances from curious passersby as he walks a new crew of volunteers through the basic steps of an oil change.

For those who have always had the privilege of reliable transportation, it's something easily taken for granted: turn key, start car, leave when you want and go wherever you want. But not knowing whether the old engine will turn over each morning so you can get to work or buy groceries is immensely stressful, and any serious repair can be debilitatingly expensive. The bus isn't a great option for many trips, or any during a pandemic.

That's why Auto Outreach does free repairs and maintenance services for BIPOC individuals. Cass has offered free oil repairs to BIPOC car owners for a while now—"Reparations shit, right?"—but in the wake of George Floyd's murder those requests shot up. He's since assembled a collection of pro bono mechanics and started working under the Auto Outreach MPLS name.

Routine maintenance (oil changes, battery changes) are the most common fixes, but the group has tackled everything from leaky fuel lines to bad starters. And Auto Outreach mechanics make house calls, showing up to do a quick repair while someone's car is in the lot so they can get on the road with no disruption to their day.

They've prioritized emergency repairs since some of those reaching out now got their vehicles beat up when they were helping out protestors, though often it's as simple as showing up to recharge the AC. "It's easy, it takes five minutes, and when it's 98 degrees out they're not dreading having to drive somewhere," Cass says. But there are bigger jobs in the pipeline, and these days, they're doing work for white folks, charging dirt-cheap prices, then using that money to bankroll future repairs.

"We need that guilty white-lady money," Amy, one of the volunteer mechanics, laughs. "Edina, Minnetonka..."

Amy has a background in this stuff; they studied Honda/Acura at Dunwoody College of Technology. But some of the volunteers are new to car repair, which is why Auto Outreach also has an educational component (and why five people are sprawled out underneath a Chevy on this August evening). Cass remembers being intimidated by auto shops as a kid, something that can be especially rough for women and people of color.

"The auto industry loves to make this shit seem so much more complicated than it is," he says. "That way, they can get away with charging you \$100-plus an hour for labor, when you can do it yourself in 30 minutes for the cost of parts."

So a small army of two-dozen-odd auto-literate volunteers and administrators (and bike mechanics—a new outreach service that'll kick off this coming weekend) is trying to demystify it just a bit.

"Need always outpaces organization," Cass says. "This is just something where we've figured out our skill set and a need

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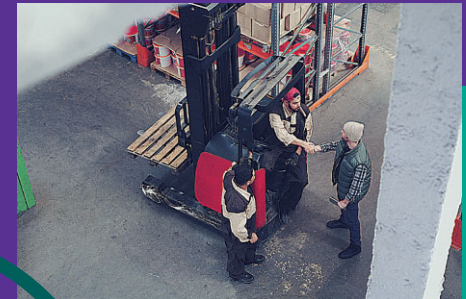
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that wasn't being satisfied, so it was a way for us to be able to help out."

## South Minneapolis Free Clothing

@southmplsfreeclothing

**As a moderator** for the Facebook group South Minneapolis Mutual Aid Autonomous Zone Coordination, Oliver Stremple noticed a disconnect. Lots of people wanted to donate clothes. Lots of people needed clothes. But there was no one between bringing them together.

Stremple says there's a good reason for that: Clothes are a pain in the ass. They're bulky, they're heavy, and they take up a lot of space. They're specific to the person; sizes and styles have to fit in a way canned goods and shelf staples simply don't.

But as a grant writer with a degree in social work and a former thrift store employee, Stremple figured someone could connect those dots—why not them? They asked if anyone had a space, and Lyn-Lake's HUGE Improv Theater did. The nonprofit theater had been closed due to COVID and wanted someone to use the lobby. It was only a few days until South Minneapolis Free Clothing came to be anchored out of the space, where it's been for the past three months.

Today, a wall of framed performance posters provides the backdrop for racks upon racks of donated hoodies, jackets, shorts, and pants. There are shelves of shoes and boxes of baby clothes (though both women's footwear and kids' clothing are impossible to keep in stock). Bras hang from one rack, and there are even a few formal gowns. Ready for when cold weather hits, 20 to 30 garages around the Twin Cities are brimming with warm, winter-appropriate wear.

And most importantly? "I don't have to do any sort of intake for people who come into the space."

As a social worker, Stremple often feels they're between people and their human rights. "Everyone deserves clothing. Everyone deserves housing. You literally should not have to believe anything, behave in a certain way, look a certain way." Intake processes are necessary for nonprofits to get funding, but they also create barriers toward helping people get what they need.

At HUGE, there are no hoops. No ID or proof of residency is required. Open hours are specific (and are posted on Instagram each week), but shoppers don't have to speak a certain language, and they don't have to be sober. You're welcome to come back weekly and fill up to two trash bags with clothing. There are no raised eyebrows or sideways glances. If there's a line outside, your time is limited to 20 minutes. Barriers removed, South Minneapolis Free Clothing has been able to serve more than 100 people in a single weekend.

And still, donations come in. The racks are replenished. The needs can be met—if there's a continued willingness to give.

"No amount of mutual aid is going to undo the structures that are in place that created this," Stremple says of Minnesota's great wealth and resource disparity. "But it could create systems where people can rely on less oppressive structures."

## Grease Pit Free Store

@freestore\_at\_thegreasepit

**About a mile from** where Minnehaha Center's Target and Cub burned—contributing to the creation of a food desert in



Alex Gomez at the Grease Pit Free Store

neighborhoods where insecurity is already high—a DIY bike shop has become an unlikely source of stability for a community in need.

Each Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, the Grease Pit Free Store provides for families from their neighborhood. Volunteers set up folding tables full of food, household necessities, medical supplies, and baby items in front of the shop's eggplant-purple facade. Traffic slows and a crowd gathers on the corner of 28th Street and Bloomington Avenue, where a spunky 11-year-old calls numbers to the assembled crowd,

and shoppers move from table to table to choose the groceries they need: flour, salt, sugar, eggs.

"We don't want to do the pre-bag thing," explains Alex Gomez, the organizer behind this bike shop-

slash-free store arrangement. "That feels more like charity than mutual aid."

The Free Store started with community meals. Wanting to provide some sort of consistency for neighbors during the intensely uncertain times following George Floyd's murder, Gomez helped make hundreds of burritos, and the folks behind the Grease Pit gave the OK to use their space as a distro point.

Soon, people were dropping carloads of supplies at the shop, where Gomez and other volunteers spent every day through mid-July. By the first week of August, Gomez estimates they've raised \$35,000. "And we're just random people. We're not part of a group or an organization or anything like that... it's everyone who's pretty low-income doing the donating."

Just as she'd hoped, the free store has

provided a point of consistency. There's a rhythm to it now: Three days of prep work, three days of Free Store shopping hours (Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, from 3-6 p.m.). The crew members are familiar to shoppers: Abdull, who translates for Somali visitors, and 11-year-old Fatima, who lives a few blocks away and is also the free store's Spanish translator.

Families return again and again. Most walk. Fatima will call anywhere from 100 to 150 numbers a day.

The needs are consistent, too. Anything baby-related is in demand, and household necessities like laundry detergent and dish soap—anything you can't purchase with WIC or food stamps—are among the biggest needs.

They've been able to partner with other organizations for perishable goods. Produce comes by way of The Good Acre's Local Emergency Assistance Farmer Fund (LEAFF), through which the nonprofit buys fruits and veggies from BIPOC farmers and distributes them to donation sites around the city. There's The Food Group, which supplies regular drops of culturally specific foods. Gray Hobby Farm and Sunshine Harvest Farm bring eggs.

But donations go quickly. Gomez spent about \$2,000 on food and household items earlier on this August morning, all of which will be gone before the day is out.

As for what comes next, Gomez isn't sure. Already winter looms. The group would like to have a brick-and-mortar space, but that would mean paying rent, which would mean they couldn't keep the store free. She's battled about the idea of a sliding-scale club, where you could pay based on your need or volunteer to get perks, not unlike an old-school co-op. She's been applying for grants that might help them get there.

There is one thing she knows for sure: "We want to stay in this neighborhood." **GP**





SARAH BRUMBLE

# LATTES AND LABOR

Spyhouse Coffee workers are about to vote on forming a union

BY JAY BOLLER

For workers at Spyhouse Coffee Roasters, the list of grievances just kept growing.

Pay and benefits were never ideal at the Twin Cities coffee chain's six locations, they report, but then COVID-19 hit, revealing a level of disconnect with ownership many viewed as untenable. Community blowback sparked by a leaked, racially insensitive email from ownership further damaged morale.

"A lot of us got fed up and started talking to each other," barista Maeve Collins says. "One thing led to another... and now we're here."

On August 26, around 34 Spyhouse workers informed owner Christian Johnson of their intent to form a union. Johnson declined to recognize the union the following day, writing in a memo to staff: "I am hopeful that we can begin direct and

authentic discussions with employees without the need for a third-party conduit in an effort to build from within."

That means Spyhouse workers—87 percent of whom have signed union cards—will soon vote to become a National Labor Relations Board-recognized union. They'll then be able to collectively bargain with the 20-year-old coffee chain for pay, benefits, and working conditions as members of Unite Here Local 17, the Minneapolis-based hospitality union that represents roughly 6,000 workers.

Though Johnson did not return requests for comment from City Pages, a statement issued by a PR firm on behalf of the coffee chain dated August 28 said, "Spyhouse believes in the right of each and every eligible Spyhouse employee to vote in a formal free-choice election certified and governed by the National Labor Relations Board."

"Spyhouse workers are ready to have a voice in their job; they have tried and tried to express concerns about their workplace, and nothing changes," says Unite Here organizer Sheigh Freeberg. "Ultimately, they love their work and by unionizing they are hoping to make Spyhouse a place where people feel safe, heard, and respected."

After a round of lockdown furloughs, Spyhouse workers returned to the job in April. Workers have been "kind of going at it blindly" ever since, according to barista Matt Marciniac.

As part of his coronavirus executive orders, Gov. Tim Walz required all restaurants operating during the pandemic to implement preparedness plans by June 29. Spyhouse finally revealed its plan to staff in mid-August, workers tell City Pages. Repeated requests for plexiglass dividers went ignored; policing customer mask use has proven chaotic.

"A lot of us had been feeling frustrated, definitely by COVID and the unclearly communicated safety protocols; we didn't feel like our safety was being prioritized," Marciniac says. "There was pretty much no democracy in the workplace."

Baristas make minimum wage plus tips, Collins says, and benefits are not generous. COVID hazard pay has not been discussed,

according to Spyhouse supervisor Grace Erpenbach, adding that a lack of transparency from ownership has created widespread discontent.

"Overall, there aren't a lot of voices being heard to make sure staff is happy and safe," she says. "There's no actual change, and if there is, it's only recently because they know staff is so unhappy."

Workers' moods worsened in June when a corporate email from eight years ago resurfaced online. In it, Spyhouse ownership advised staff members on how to navigate summertime crime spikes in south Minneapolis; the memo shared anecdotes about "black males" casing the downtown location, an "intoxicated Native American" being removed by cops, and "street people" who are "panhandling to get money for alcohol."

Condemnation from the community was swift and justified, Collins says, adding that employees were forced to endure the backlash. Spyhouse workers widely viewed the company's response as insufficient. Collins says it's one of the main reasons they decided to unionize.

"We would love to get the trust from the community back," she says. "Some regulars have conflicted feelings, but they want to support the workers. It hurts."

Erpenbach also feels pride for Spyhouse. "I'm trying to organize and unionize for this company because I really do care about it a lot," she says. "I'm excited to fight for our staff and make Spyhouse a place to be proud to work at again."

When northeast Minneapolis's Tattersall Distillery voted to become America's first unionized craft distillery last week, Spyhouse workers took notice.

"Seeing all the support with Tattersall, and that it could be done, we were like, 'We can actually do this,'" Collins says. "It inspired a lot of hope."

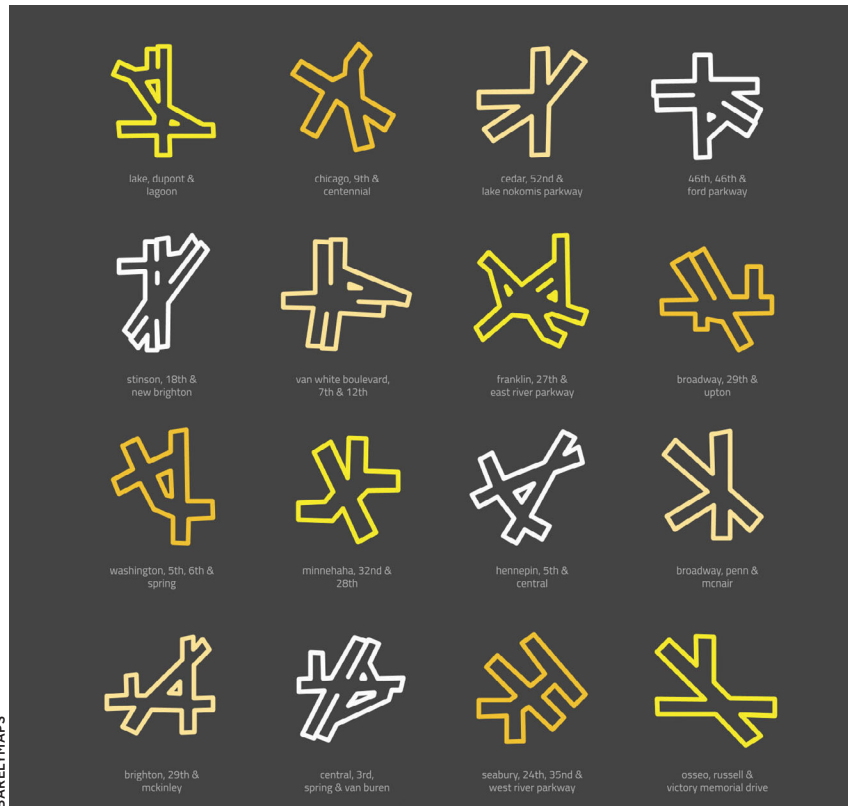
Tattersall and Spyhouse, both of which were organized by Unite Here Local 17, are now local examples of a small but surging push for unionizing food workers. It's "only the beginning," Freeberg predicts, of a reinvigorated labor movement inside the Twin Cities service industry.

"I would think this would lead to a domino effect, where other workers feel powerful, feel like they can stand up for themselves," Marciniac says. "That they don't have to accept the bottom of the barrel, they don't have to accept the status quo, and they can fight for more control of the workplace that they're an instrumental part of. They should demand to have their input heard."



# A LIST

BARELYMAPS



## ART & INTERSECTIONS

These high-traffic “maps” are strangely beautiful

BY JAY BOLLER

Peter Gorman was going to get to Minneapolis eventually.

In 2014, the Hawaii-based artist set out on a one-year, 11,000-mile bicycle trip that looped west from Boston and back. Soon after, he began committing his urban bike adventures to memory via artful maps of intersections, the first of which, Seattle’s, grabbed headlines and spurred requests.

Two weekends ago, Minneapolis became the 53rd entry in Gorman’s “Intersections” series, followed by St. Paul last week. The pieces showcase the sneaky geometric beauty of our traffic grid, featuring appearances from Lake Street, Broadway Avenue, Summit Avenue, Ayd Mill Road, and several other major roadways.

“For each city, I start with the intersections I remember,” says Gorman, who spent a weekend couch-surfing in Min-

neapolis during his cross-country bike tour. “Then I do some research to find out which ones are the most notorious; then I finish by looking at a map and looking for the shapes that look interesting.”

Locals have taken notice. Over on the r/Minneapolis subreddit, Gorman’s Minneapolis map has attracted almost 2,000 up-votes. Reddit user reactions seem split between praising the minimalist aesthetic and griping about the particularly perilous intersection inclusions, which happens to be the artist’s intent.

“Feedback has been really great,” Gorman says. “It’s fun to share the images and see what people see in the shapes, and hear their personal experiences at the intersections.”

You can purchase a print of Gorman’s Minneapolis design for \$27 at his Etsy shop, barelymaps. [@](#)



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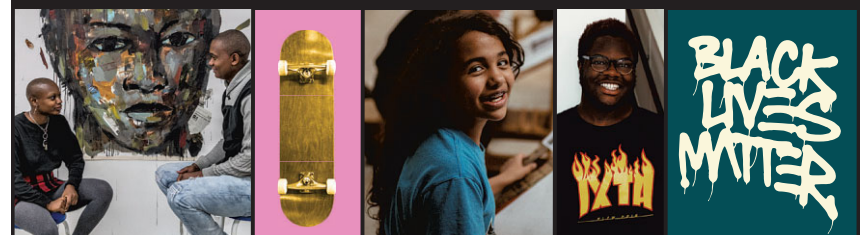


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**MUSIC**

# READING MUSIC

Five books about music worth your time and attention

BY KEITH HARRIS

It's been a bad year for—well, for most things. But it's been a good year for books about music, and here are five that'll introduce you to music you'll be glad you heard and that'll teach you something new about the music you think you already know.

Look closely and you'll see that most of these books originated with university presses. But none are written for an exclusively academic audience—they're either the work of journalists or critics, or of academics who've already written plenty for a broader readership.

**Sasha Geffen – *Glitter Up the Dark: How Pop Music Broke the Binary* (University of Texas Press)**

Geffen (Pitchfork, Rolling Stone, NPR) sorts through more than a half-century of pop history, from the Beatles' shaggy-haired “woo”s through the more explicitly genderfluid electronic music of today, uncovering how performers—some world famous, some creating within smaller scenes—have consistently upended gender conventions.

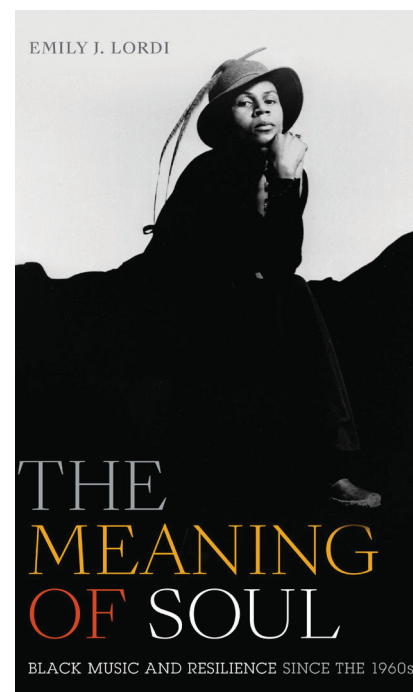
**Grace Elizabeth Hale – *Cool Town: How Athens, Georgia, Launched Alternative Music and Changed American Culture* (University of North Carolina Press)**

This University of Virginia historian's study of the college town that gave the world the B-52s and R.E.M. is part memoir, part ethnography, and part celebration of a cultural ideal. Hale looks at how Athens redefined the idea of a regional music scene, allowed for looser definitions of gender and sexuality, negotiated art and commerce, and ducked the question of race.

**Emily J. Lordi – *The Meaning of Soul* (Duke University Press)**

That grand title sets up a challenging project that Lordi, a professor at Vanderbilt who's also written for the New Yorker and NPR, never shirks from—what is soul, that oft-invoked but definition-evading element of African-American culture? Few cultural theorists listen to music this well or joyfully; few critics place their judgments and pleasures within as persuasive a theoretical framework.

EMILY J. LORDI



THE MEANING OF SOUL, EMILY J. LORDI

**Nate Patrin – *Bring That Beat Back: How Sampling Built Hip-Hop* (University of Minnesota Press)**

Grandmaster Flash reconfiguring the past through his selection of breaks. Prince Paul expanding the possibilities of hip-hop production. Dr. Dre's move toward live instrumentation. Madlib creating an underground world of his own. Focusing on the work of these four figures, Patrin (a former City Pages staffer and contributor who's also written regularly for Pitchfork and Stereogum) synthesizes an incredible amount of information as he uncovers nuances in a story you might think you already know by heart. Essential.

**Maria Sherman – *Larger Than Life: A History of Boy Bands from NKOTB to BTS* (Black Dog & Leventhal)**

The brightly colored illustrations and irreverent tone let you know that Sherman has no interest in seeking validation of a genre she adores from arbiters of respectability. Instead, she proves that criticism that can thoughtfully speak the language of pop fans and that a true history of a pop phenomenon should also be entertaining. And funny. **E**



**♈ ARIES** (March 21-April 19): "A new idea is rarely born like Venus attended by graces. More commonly it's modeled of baling wire and acne. More commonly it wheezes and tips over." Those words were written by Aries author Marge Piercy, who has been a fount of good new ideas in the course of her career. I regard her as an expert in generating wheezy, fragile breakthroughs and ultimately turning them into shiny, solid beacons of revelation. Your assignment in the coming weeks, Aries, is to do as Piercy has done so well.

**♉ TAURUS** (April 20-May 20): "Every day I discover even more beautiful things," said painter Claude Monet. "It is intoxicating me, and I want to paint it all. My head is bursting." That might seem like an extreme state to many of us. But Monet was a specialist in the art of seeing. He trained himself to be alert for exquisite sights. So his receptivity to the constant flow of loveliness came naturally to him. I bring this to your attention, Taurus, because I think that in the coming weeks, you could rise closer to a Monet-like level of sensitivity to beauty. Would that be interesting to you? If so, unleash yourself! Make it a priority to look for charm, elegance, grace, delight, and dazzlement.

**♊ GEMINI** (May 21-June 20): Author Renata Adler describes a time in her life when she began to notice blue triangles on her feet. She was wracked with fear that they were a symptom of leukemia. But after a period of intense anxiety, she realized one fine day that they had a different cause. She writes: "Whenever I, walking barefoot, put out the garbage on the landing, I held the apartment door open, bending over from the rear. The door would cross a bit over the tops of my feet"—leaving triangular bruises. Upon realizing this very good news, she says, "I took a celebrational nap." From what I can tell, Gemini, you're due for a series of celebrational naps—both because of worries that turn out to be unfounded and because you need a concentrated period of recharging your energy reserves.

**♋ CANCER** (June 21-July 22): "I like people who refuse to speak until they are ready to speak," proclaimed Cancerian author Lillian Hellman. I feel the same way. So often people have nothing interesting or important to say, but say it anyway. I've done that myself! The uninteresting and unimportant words I have uttered are too numerous to count. The good news for me and all of my fellow Cancerians is that in the coming weeks we are far more likely than usual to not speak until we are ready to speak. According to my analysis of the astrological potentials, we are poised to express ourselves with clarity, authenticity, and maximum impact.

**♌ LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22): Of all the mournful impacts the pandemic has had, one of the most devastating is that it has diminished our opportunities to touch and be touched by other humans. Many of us are starved of the routine, regular contact we had previously taken for granted. I look forward to the time when we can again feel uninhibited about shaking hands, hugging, and patting friends on the arm or shoulder. In the meantime, how can you cope? This issue is extra crucial for you Leos to meditate on right now. Can you massage yourself? Seek extra tactile contact with animals? Hug trees? Figure out how to physically connect with people while wearing hazmat suits, gloves, masks, and face shields? What else?

**♍ VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): "Like any art, the creation of self is both natural and seemingly impossible," says singer-songwriter Holly Near. "It requires training as well as magic." How are you doing on that score, Virgo? Now is a favorable time to intensify your long-term art project of creating the healthiest, smartest version of yourself. I think it will feel quite natural and not-at-all-impossible. In the coming weeks, you'll have a finely tuned intuitive sense of how to proceed with flair. Start by imagining the Most Beautiful You.

**♎ LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): I propose we resurrect the old English word "museful." First used in the 17th century but then forgotten, it meant "deeply thoughtful; pensive." In our newly coined use, it refers to a condition wherein a person is abundantly inspired by the presence of the muse. I further suggest that we invoke this term to apply to you Libras in the coming weeks. You potentially have a high likelihood of intense communion with your muses. There's also a good chance you'll engage with a new muse or two. What will you do with all of this illumination and stimulation?

**♏ SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Each of us has a "soul's code": a metaphorical blueprint of the beautiful person we could become by fulfilling our destiny. If our soul's code remains largely dormant, it will agitate and disorient us. If, on the other hand, we perfectly actualize our soul's code, we will feel at home in the world; all our experiences will feel meaningful. The practical fact is that most of us have made some progress in manifesting our soul's code, but still have a way to go before we fully actualize it. Here's the good news: You Scorpios are in a phase of your cycle when you could make dramatic advances in this glorious work.

**♐ SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): "Life is the only game in which the object of the game is to learn the rules," observes Sagittarian author Ashleigh Brilliant. According to my research, you have made excellent progress in this quest during the last few weeks—and will continue your good work in the next six weeks. Give yourself an award! Buy yourself a trophy! You have discovered at least two rules that were previously unknown to you, and you have also ripened your understanding of another rule that had previously been barely comprehensible. Be alert for more breakthroughs.

**♑ CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): "If you're not lost, you're not much of an explorer," said rambunctious activist and author John Perry Barlow. Adding to his formulation, I'll say that if you want to be a successful explorer, it's crucial to get lost on some occasions. And according to my analysis, now is just such a time for you Capricorns. The new territory you have been brave enough to reconnoiter should be richly unfamiliar. The possibilities you have been daring enough to consider should be provocatively unpredictable. Keep going, my dear! That's the best way to become un-lost.

**♒ AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): "Dreams really tell you about yourself more than anything else in this world could ever tell you," said psychic Sylvia Browne. She was referring to the mysterious stories that unfold in our minds as we sleep. I agree with her assessment of dreams' power to show us who we really are all the way down to the core of our souls. What Browne didn't mention, however, is that it takes knowledge and training to become proficient in deciphering dreams' revelations. Their mode of communication is unique—and unlike every other source of teaching. I bring this up, Aquarius, because the coming months will be a favorable time for you to become more skilled in understanding your dreams.

**♓ PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20): In June 1876, warriors from three Indian tribes defeated U.S. troops led by General George Custer at the Battle of Little Big Horn in Montana. It was an iconic victory in what was ultimately a losing battle to prevent conquest by the ever-expanding American empire. One of the tribes that fought that day was the Northern Cheyenne. Out of fear of punishment by the U.S. government, its leaders waited 130 years to tell its side of the story about what happened. New evidence emerged then, such as the fact that the only woman warrior in the fight, Buffalo Calf Road Woman, killed Custer himself. I offer this tale as an inspiration for you Pisceans to tell your story about events that you've kept silent about for too long.

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| 17 |   |    |    |    |  | 18 |    |    |    |    | 19 |    |    |
| 20 |   |    |    | 21 |  |    |    |    | 22 | 23 |    | 24 |    |
| 25 |   |    |    |    |  |    |    |    | 26 |    | 27 |    |    |
| 28 |   |    |    |    |  | 29 | 30 | 31 |    |    |    |    |    |
|    |   | 32 |    |    |  | 33 | 34 |    |    |    |    | 35 | 36 |
|    |   |    |    |    |  | 37 |    |    |    |    |    | 38 |    |
|    |   |    | 40 | 41 |  |    |    |    |    | 42 | 43 |    |    |
| 44 |   |    |    |    |  | 45 |    | 46 | 47 | 48 |    |    |    |
| 49 |   |    |    | 50 |  |    |    | 51 |    |    |    | 52 |    |
| 53 |   |    |    |    |  | 54 | 55 |    |    |    |    | 56 |    |
| 57 |   |    |    |    |  |    |    |    |    |    |    | 58 |    |
| 59 |   |    |    |    |  | 60 |    |    |    |    |    | 61 |    |

“UH OH”

BY BRENDAN EMMETT QUIGLEY

Across

- 1 Bygone ruler whose name is an anagram of an oath
- 5 Greek letters
- 9 Altar in the night sky
- 12 “A Message to You, \_\_\_” (the Specials)
- 13 Mortgage broker’s numbers
- 15 One-named body-positive supermodel
- 16 Way to position electronics so as to read the brand label?
- 17 Latin 101 verb
- 18 Google \_\_\_
- 19 Western author Grey
- 20 Ability to think in a melodic fashion?
- 24 Tim Scott’s title, for short
- 25 Strand at sea, say
- 26 He had a big part in Exodus
- 28 Get rid of some “bunnies”
- 29 Unthinking comeback
- 32 Plastic Trees ‘R’ Us or Impossible Burger King?
- 37 Perches
- 38 Mizuno rival
- 40 Car named after the founder’s son
- 42 Rummages (through)
- 44 “Frankenfood,” for short
- 45 Norse trickster god’s attacks?
- 49 Relative that some pronounce as if there were only three letters

- 51 Oklahoma native tribes
- 52 New Deal agcy. that built Camp David
- 53 Actor Humphrey engaging in BDSM?
- 56 Create a neologism
- 57 Pianist on “Kind of Blue”
- 58 \_\_\_ Kong
- 59 Hoppy steinful
- 60 Director Wachowski
- 61 Where this answer is

Down

- 1 Took out to lunch
- 2 Conjure
- 3 Caution
- 4 Pumpernickel alternative
- 5 Bridges, in Paris
- 6 Greet
- 7 Drive-\_\_\_ (concert settings during COVID)
- 8 Asian honorific
- 9 “That’ll do, cadet”
- 10 Gets the group back together
- 11 Skiing mecca
- 13 Loughlin of the college admissions scandal
- 14 Tool similar to the mattock
- 16 Reliever’s feat
- 18 Library entrance?
- 21 Wealthy fur family
- 22 Intro that covers everything
- 23 One preceder
- 27 Rival of Chris and Gabriela
- 29 Crunch targets
- 30 Been-there-done-

- that-I-gotta-get-out-of-this-place feeling
- 31 Treacherous curve
- 33 “Once in Royal David’s City,” e.g.
- 34 Why not?, in an initialism
- 35 1983 Meryl Streep movie about a whistleblower
- 36 Enjoying some R.E.M.?
- 39 DNC email leaker
- 40 Exotic skin care product made from bird fat
- 41 Roku stick, e.g.
- 42 Bus drivers have them: Abbr.
- 43 Refund issuer
- 44 Word repeated before “Hey” or after “Yo”
- 46 Creator of “Orange Is the New Black” Jenji \_\_\_
- 47 1986 rock memoir whose first chapter is called “Nut Bush”
- 48 Dips bread, as in gravy
- 50 Prior to
- 54 Tropical reef predator
- 55 Charleston’s st.
- 56 Michael of “S.N.L.”

Last Week’s Answer

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| B | E | T | A |   | A | S | A | P |   | P | A | P | A | W |
| L | E | A | N |   | D | O | D | O |   | E | X | I | L | E |
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| D | E | L | I |   | V | E | R | M | I | N | O | R |   |   |
| E | D | S |   |   | O | D | D |   | O | A | R |   | P | A |
|   |   |   |   |   | V | A | I | O | S |   | V | I | T | A |
| B | O | C | A |   | N | U | T | H | I | N | B | U | T | A |
| O | P | A | L | S |   | G | E | E |   | O | I | L | E | D |
| G | E | N | I |   | E | T | H | A | N | G |   | R | A | R |
| G | R | A | D | E | R |   | D | R | O | I | D |   |   |   |
| S | A | L |   |   | P | O | L |   | Y | A | K |   | J | O |
|   |   |   |   |   | P | I | N | O | C | H | L | E | F | U |
| Q | U | E | E | N |   | G | O | I | N |   | A | R | I | A |
| V | A | L | E | T |   | I | D | L | E |   | Z | O | O | T |
| C | E | L | L | O |   | C | E | L | T |   | E | R | N | E |



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## SAVAGE LOVE

# Fantasy Figures

Why won't my cheating husband open things up?



**Dan Savage**

**I**'ve been married 30 years to the same man. I've dealt with his tantrums, his screaming, and his fits. He strangled me once a few months after our son was born and never did it again. I would have left otherwise. He's had relationships with other women but always swore it was just online. Then, a few years back, I got into an online relationship. I opened up to this person about our troubles and I talked about my husband's anger issues and some other private things. This person encouraged me to have an affair but I kept putting him off. Finally, I told him I did it, I had an affair, it was great, etc. It wasn't true but it seemed like that's what he wanted to hear. About 30 minutes after I told him I got a call from my husband! This person had sent it to him! All of our conversations, every detail. My husband flipped, but we worked it out.

At the start of the pandemic, I found out my husband has been speaking to other women. I also found out that he's been meeting other women in hotel rooms in other cities! He claims he has erectile dysfunction but it was clear from the messages he's having sex with these women. So he's somehow fucking despite the ED that prevents him from fucking me?

I'm beside myself because we built a life together and now I don't know what my future is going to look like. I can't provide for myself. I still work full time but if I lose this job or retire I will have nothing. And we both have medical issues. I don't want a divorce because a secure future for both of us really does hinge on us remaining together. I know for a fact he's still seeing women while forbidding me from even online conversations with another man. Neither of us can make it on our own. I don't know what to do. Why wouldn't he want an open relationship?

DIVORCE INVITES SERIOUS  
CONSEQUENCES OR REAL DISTRESS

**Your husband doesn't** want an open relationship, DISCORD, because he doesn't want you to have the same freedom he does. And while he doesn't want to be sexual with you for reasons that have nothing to do with erectile dysfunction, he doesn't want you seeking sexual attention in the arms or inboxes of other men. Which means your husband sees you not as a human being like him, but more like a car he keeps in his garage and refuses to drive and won't

let anyone else take for a spin.

You're not his property. You were also faithful to him—even after he assaulted you—and stayed in this marriage despite being deprived of sex and intimacy. But even if you had been fucking on a daily basis, even if your husband wasn't an abusive asshole, you would still have every right to indulge in sexual fantasies that don't involve your husband and every right to explore those fantasies on your own time.

You say divorce isn't a viable option, so I'm gonna recommend a different d-word: detach. Make peace with your circumstances. Don't go searching for evidence that your husband is cheating on you, just accept he is. Don't confront him about his fucking hypocrisy, just accept that he's a huge fucking hypocrite. And then, just like your husband, do whatever and whoever you want. You don't need his permission to seek attention. And if being honest upsets your husband, then don't be honest. Just as he made an effort to be discreet in order to hide the scale of his cheating and his hypocrisy from you, you can be discreet in order to avoid conflict.

Get back online, make a new friend. Just because that last guy turned out to be a sadistic asshole who drew you out in order to blow up your life doesn't mean the next guy is going to be. Millions of people get online every day to chat with strangers. While revenge porn is definitely a thing—and definitely a crime—it's almost always jilted IRL lovers. If it was even remotely common for people to be exposed to their spouses the way you were, we would hear about it constantly.

To be on the safe side, DISCORD, you might want to keep it anonymous. Don't share your real info with someone you only wanna swap hot fantasies with and never intend to meet in person. And when your husband is being an asshole or generally getting on your nerves, fantasize about the statistical likelihood that you will outlive your husband by many years. Because orgasms aren't the only sweet release.

**mail@savagelove.net**

Follow Dan on Twitter: @fakedansavage  
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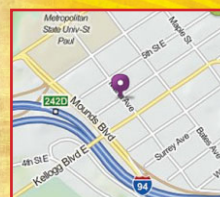
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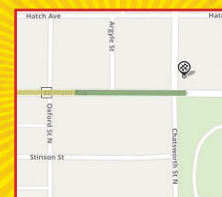
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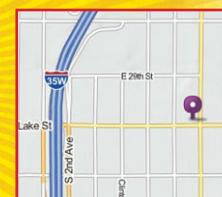
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**Volunteer Opportunities: Response to COVID-19**  
In order to support community needs created by the Coronavirus outbreak, HandsOn Twin Cities has created a special Volunteer Hub with opportunities and guidelines for volunteering.

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The Union Gospel Mission Twin Cities is looking for volunteers to help serve meals every day of the week in St. Paul. This is a great opportunity to meet the basic needs for individuals experiencing homelessness.  
<http://www.ugmtc.org/>

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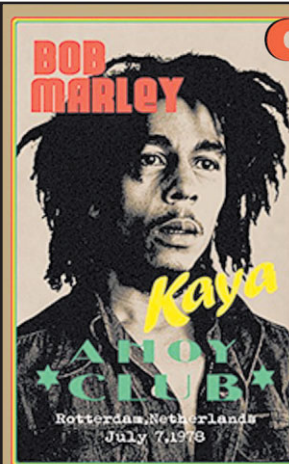
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